

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18950

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO, TH

SUBJ: 20TH COUNCIL MEETING

REF: A) MANILA 12333; B) BANGKOK 18722

SUMMARY: PHILIPPINE PWG MEMBER COMPLETELY REVERSED HIS POSITION CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF QUOTE THE COUNCIL REAFFIRMED THAT THE SOUTHEAST ASIA COLLECTIVE DEFENSE TREATY SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE UNQUOTE PER REFTEL B AND INTRODUCED IN PWG MEETING SEPTEMBER 9 A NEW ELEMENT OF CO-TERMINATION OF SEATO AND THE TREATY. THIS REVISED PHILIPPINE POSITION HAS RAISED BASIC CONFLICT WITH THE OTHER FIVE MEMBERS AND AFFECTS THE THREE KEY DOCUMENTS WHICH COUNCIL REPS ARE TO CONSIDER ON SEPTEMBER 10 IN PREPARATION FOR THE 20TH COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK. THIS CONFLICT IS UNLIKELY TO BE RESOLVED AT COUNCIL REPS MEETING AND WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN THE PHILIPPINE RESERVATIONS BEING CARRIED OVER TO THE COUNCIL MINISTER'S MEETING. END SUMMARY.

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1. PHILIPPINE PWG MEMBER ON SEPTEMBER 9 INTRODUCED

STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN THE THREE KEY DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE COUNCIL MINISTER'S MEETING. THEY ARE (1) RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF SEATO (SCR/75/D-42) (2) THE DRAFT DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS (SCR/75/D-40) AND (3) THE DRAFT COUNCIL PRESS STATEMENT (SCR/75/D-44). THESE DOCUMENTS CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING WORDS: QUOTE THE COUNCIL REAFFIRM THAT THE SOUTHEAST ASIA COLLECTIVE DEFENSE TREATY SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE. UNQUOTE. THE PHILIPPINE RESERVATION IS THAT IT CANNOT SUBSCRIBE TO THE VIEW THAT THE TREATY WOULD SUBSIST NOTWITHSTANDING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE PHILIPPINE PWG MEMBER STATED THAT THE PHILIPPINES, IN SIGNING THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF 24 JULY, 1975 WITH THAILAND WHICH DECLARES THAT SEATO SHOULD BE PHASED OUT WAS OF THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PHASING OUT REFERRED BOTH TO THE TREATY AND THE ORGANIZATION. HE ARGUED THAT THE TREATY HAD LOST ITS RAISON D' ETRE, THAT IT WAS NO LONGER VALID AND THAT SOME OF ITS PROVISIONS ARE OBSOLETE.

2. THIS REVERSAL OF THE PHILIPPINE PWG MEMBER'S PREVIOUS POSITION CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH ONE, REFTEL B CAUGHT OTHER MEMBERS BY SURPRISE. NEVERTHELESS, THE OTHER FIVE PWG MEMBERS WERE UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF THE WORDING IN ALL THREE KEY DOCUMENTS AS IT NOW STANDS. THIS INCLUDES THE AUSTRALIAN PWG MEMBER, WHO CAME TO THE SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING WITH NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO REACH AN AGREEABLE COMPROMISE ON ALL THE POINTS AT ISSUE.

3. COUNCIL REPS WILL MEET ON SEPTEMBER 10 WITH DOCUMENTS WHICH CONTAIN THE WORDING APPROVED BY THE OTHER FIVE MEMBERS WITH AN ATTACHED ANNEX CONTAINING THE PHILIPPINE RESERVATIONS. IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT ANY NEW INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL REP IN TIME FOR A UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THESE DOCUMENTS BY COUNCIL REPS. IN FACT, THE PHILIPPINE PWG MEMBER STATES THAT THESE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE COME FROM GENERAL ROMULO, WHO IS NOW IN NEW YORK. IT
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THEREFORE APPEARS THAT THIS DIFFERING OF POSITION WILL REQUIRE DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL MINISTERS IN NEW YORK UNLESS GENERAL ROMULO'S VIEWS ARE MODIFIED BEFORE THE MINISTER'S MEETING. WE CANNOT JUDGE FROM HERE WHETHER THE GOP WILL ABIDE BY THE CONSENSUS IN NEW YORK AFTER ARGUING STRONGLY FOR PACT TERMINATION AS MENTIONED IN REF A. MEANWHILE, WE WILL PROMPTLY REPORT DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING COUNCIL REPS MEETING SEPTEMBER 10

SINCE THE THAI PWG MEMBER HAS EXPRESSED PROFOUND DIS-
SATISFACTION WITH THE PHILIPPINE POSITION.
WHITEHOUSE

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